

AN  
ACCOMPT  
OF THE  
Bloody Massacre  
IN  
IRELAND:

Acted by the Instigation of the JESUITS, PRIESTS,  
and FRIARS, who were Promoters of those horrible  
Murthers, prodigious Cruelties, barbarous Villanies, and  
inhumane Practices executed by the *Irish Papists* upon the  
*English Protestants*.

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*Felix quem faciunt aliena pericula cautum.*

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**W**hen their Plots were ripe for Execution, we find their first proceedings  
against the *English* various, some of the *Irish* only stripping and  
expelling them; others murdering Men, Women, and Children  
without mercy; all resolving universally to root out all the *Protestants* of *Ire-*  
*land*: so deeply malicious were they against the *English Protestants*, that they  
would not so much as endure the sound of their Language.

The Priests gave the Sacrament unto divers of the *Irish*, upon condition they  
A should

should neither spare Man, Woman, nor Child of the *Protestants*. One *Hulligan*, a Priest, read an Excommunication against all those, that from thenceforth should relieve or harbour any *English*, *Scottish*, or *Welsh* man, or give them almes, whereby many were Famished to dearth. The Eriars exhorted them with tears not to spare any of the *English*.

The day before this Massacre began, Anno 1642, the Priests gave the People a dismiss at Mass, with liberty to go out, and take possession of all their Lands, as also to strip, and rob, and despoil them of all their goods and cattle.

The *Iris*, when the Massacre began, perswaded many of their *Protestant* Neighbours to bring their Goods to them, and they would secure them, and hereby they got abundance peaceably into their hands, whereof they cheated the *Protestants*, refusing to restore them again, yet so confident were the *Protestants* at first of them, that they gave them Inventories of all they had; and digged up their best things that were hidden in the ground, and deposited them in their custody. They also got much into their hands by fair Promises, deep Oaths and Engagements, that if they would deliver them their goods, they would suffer them, with their Wives and Children, quietly to depart the Country; and when they had got what they could, they afterwards murdered them.

Having thus seized upon their goods and cattle, ransacked their houses, got their persons, stript Man, Woman, and Child naked, and so turned them out of doors, strictly prohibiting the *Iris* under great penalties, not to give them any relief; by means hereof many miserably perisht through cold, nakedness, and hunger.

In the Town of *Colemaine*, many of these poor people that fled thither for succour, many thousands died in two dayes, so that the living could not bury the dead, but laid their Carcasses in rauks in waste and wide holes, piling them up as if they had been Herrings.

One *Magdalen Redman* deposeth, that she, and divers other *Protestants*, amongst whom were two and twenty Widows, were first robbed, and then stript Naked, and when they had covered themselves with Straw, the Blooty *Papists* threw in burning straw amongst them, on purpose to burn them; then they drove them out into the Woods in Frost and Snow, where many of them died with extream Cold, and those that survived, lived miserably by reason of their many wants.

Yet though these bloody Villains exercised such inhumane Cruelties towards the poor *Protestants*, they would commonly boast, That these were but the beginning of their joy, for indeed they made it good; for having disarmed the *English*, robbed them of their Goods, stript them of their Cloths, and having their Persons in their power, they furiously broke out into all manner of abominable Cruelties, horrible Massacres, and execrable Murders.

For there were multitudes Murdered in cold Blood, some as they were at Plough, others in their Houses, others in the High-ways; all without any provocation, were suddenly destroyed.

In the Castle of *Lisgoel* were about One hundred and fifty Men, Women and Children consumed with Fire. At the Castle of *Tullish*, which was delivered to *M.*

*Guire*, upon composition, and faithful promises of fair quarter, as soon as he and his entered, they began to strip the People, and most cruelly put them to the Sword, Murdering them all without mercy.

At *Liffenskeath*, they Hanged and Killed above One hundred of the *Scottish Protestants*. In the Counties of *Armagh* and *Tyrone*, where the *Protestants* were more numerous, their Murders were more multiplied, and with greater cruelty.

*Mac Guire* coming to the Castle of *Liffenskeath*, desired to speak with Mr. *Middleton*, who admitted him in, he first burnt the Records of the County, then demanded One thousand pounds which was in his custody of Sir *William Balfores*, which as soon as he had, he caused Mr. *Middleton* to hear Mass, and to swear that he would never alter from it, and then Hanged him up with his Wife and Children: Hanging and Murdering above One hundred Persons besides in that place.

At *Portendown Bridge*, there were One thousand Men, Women, and Children, carried in several Companies, and all unmercifully drowned in the River. Yea, in that Country there were four thousand persons drowned in several places.

In one place an hundred and forty *Englifo* were taken and driven like Cattle for many miles together. Other companies they carried out to a place fit for execution, and then murdered them. One hundred and fifteen Men, Women, and Children, they sent with Sir *Philem Oneal's* Pass till they came to *Portendown Bridge*, and there drowned them.

At another time One hundred and forty *Protestants*, being thrown in at the same place, as any of them swam to the shore, the bloody Villains with the Butt-ends of their Muskets knockt out their Brains.

At *Armagh*, *O Cane* got together all the *Protestants* thereabouts, pretending to conduct them to *Celeraine*; but before they were a days journey, they were all murdered, and so were many others, though they had Protections from Sir *Philem Oneal*. The Aged People in *Armagh* were carried to *Charlemont*, and there murdered.

Presently after the Town of *Armagh* was burnt, and Five hundred Persons murdered and drowned. In *Killoman* were Forty eight Families Murdered. In one house twenty two *Protestants* were burned. In *Kilmore* all the Inhabitants were Stript and Massacred, being Two hundred Families; the whole Country was a Common Butchery; many thousands perished by Sword, Famine, Fire, Water, and all other cruel Deaths, that rage and malice could invent.

At *Casel* they put all the *Protestants* into a loathsome Dungeon, kept them twelve Weeks in great misery. Some they barbarously mangled, and left them languishing; some they hanged up twice or thrice, others they buried alive.

In *Queens County*, an *Englifo* Man, his Wife, five Children, and a Maid, were all hanged together. At *Cl* was seventeen Men were buried alive; some were wounded and hanged upon Tenter-hooks.

In *Castle-Cumber*, Two Boys wounded and hung upon Butchers Tenters. Some hanged up and taken down to confess money, and then murdered. Some had their Bellies ript up, and so left with their Guts about their Heels.

In *Kilkenny*, an *English Woman* was beaten into a Ditch, where she died; her Child about six years old, they ript up her Belly, and let out her Guts. One they forced to Mass, then they wounded him, ript his Belly, took out his Guts, and so left him alive.

A *Scottish Man* they stript and hewed to pieces, ript up his Wifes Belly, so that her Child drop out; many other Women they hung up with-child, ript their Bellies and let their Infants fall out; some of the Children they gave to Dogs.

In the County of *Stramagh* they robbed, stripped, and murdered abundance of Protestants, whereof some they burned, some they slew with the Sword, some they hanged, some they starved to death; and meeting Mrs. *Howard* and Mrs. *Frankland* with six of their Children, and themselves both with-child, they murdered them all, ript open the Gentlewomens Bellies, took out their Children, and threw them into a ditch. A young *Scottish Womans* Child they took by the heels and dash't out its brains against a Tree; the like they did to many other Children.

*Anne Hill*, Going with a young Child on her Back, and four more by her side, they pulled the Child off her Back, trod on it till it died; stripped her and the other four Children naked, whereby they died of Cold.

Some others they met with, hanged them up upon a Windmill, and before they were half dead, cut them in pieces with their Skins.

Many other Protestants, especially Women and Children, they pricked and stabbed with Skins, Forks, and Swords, flaying, cutting, and mangling them in their Heads, Faces, Breasts, Arms, and other parts, yet killed them not, but left them wallowing in their own blood, to languish, starve and pine to death.

The Castle of *Lisgoole* being set on fire by these merciless Papists, a Woman leapt out at a Window to save her Children, whom they saw and murdered, many that so Vauld, and Cellars, where they were all murdered. One *Joan Addis* they stabbed, and then put her Child of a quarter old to her Breast, and bid it Suck *Englishs* Bastard, and so left it to perish.

One *Mary Barlow* had her husband hanged, her self with six Children, stript naked in Frost and Snow, after which sheltering themselves in a Cave, they had nothing to eat for three weeks but two old Calves-skins, which they beat with stones, and so eat them hair and all.

In the cold weather many thousands of Protestants of all ranks, ages, and sexes, being turned out naked, perished of cold and hunger; thousands of others were drowned, cast into Ditches, Bogs, and Turf-pits; multitudes miserably burnt in houses; some that lay sick of Feavers they hanged up; some Men, Women, and Children, they drove into Boggy Pits, and knockt them on the heads.

Some aged Men and Women these barbarous Papists inforced their own Children to drown them; yea some Children were compelled unnaturally to execute their own Parents, Wives forced to hang their own Husbands, and Mothers to cast their own Children into the Waters, after which themselves were murdered. In *Shigo* they forced a young Man to kill his Father, and then hanged him up. In another place they forced a Woman to kill her Husband, then caused her Son to kill her, and then hanged the Son; yea, such was their malice against the English that they taught their Children to kill English Children.

The *Irish Trulls* that followed the Camp, cried out Kill them all, spare neither Men, Woman, nor Child. They took the Child of *Thomas Stratton*, being about twelve years old, and boiled him in a Caldron. One good wife *Lin* and her Daughter they carried into a Wood, first hanged the Mother, and then the Daughter in the hair of her Mothers head.

In some places they plucked out the eyes and cut off the hands of the Protestants, and turned them into the Fields, where they perished. The Women in some places stoned the English Women and Children to death. One man they shot through his thighs, digged a hole in the ground, set him in upon his feet, fill'd up the hole, left out only his head, where he

languished to death. Another man they held his feet in the Fire till he was burnt to death.

In *Munster* they hanged up many *Ministers* in a most barbarous manner. One *Minister* they stripped naked, and drove him through the Town; pricking him with Darts and Rapiers, till he fell down dead.

These barbarous Villains vowed, That if any Parents digged Graves to bury their Children in, they should be buried therein themselves. They stripped one *William Loverden* naked, then killed him before his Wife and Children. Divers *Ministers* bones that had been buried some years before, they digged up, because they were, as they say, *Patrons of Heresie*.

Poor Children that went out into the fields to eat weeds and grafs, they killed without all pity.

A poor Woman whose Husband was taken by them, went to them with two Children at her feet, and one at her breast; hoping to beg her Husband; but they slew her and her sucking Child, brake the neck of another, and the third hardly escaped: and all this wickedness they exercised upon the *English*, without any provocation given them. Alas who can comprehend the fears, terrors, anguish, bitterness, and perplexity that seized upon the poor *Protestants*, finding themselves so suddenly surprized without remedy; and wrapt up in all kind of outward miseries which could possibly by man be inflicted upon humane Creatures? What sighs and groans, trembling and astonishment, what shrieks, cries, and bitter lamentations of wives, children, servants and friends, howling and weeping; finding themselves without all hope of deliverance from their present miseries. How inexorable were their barbarous Tormentors, that compassed them in on every side, without all bowels of compassion or the least commiseration or pity; yea they boasted upon their success.

These merciless *Irish Papists* having set a Castle on fire, wherein were many *Protestants*, they joyfully said, *O how sweetly do they fry!*

At *Kilkenny*, when they had committed many cruel murders, they brought seven *Protestants* heads, one the head of a reverend Minister; all which they set upon the Market-cross on a Market-day; triumphing, slashing, and mangling them: they put a Gag in the Ministers mouth, slit up his cheeks to his ears, and laid a leaf of a Bible upon it, and bid him, *Preach, for his Mouth was wide enough.*

At *Kilmore* they put many *Protestants*, Men, Women, and Children, into a thatched House, and there burnt them. They threw Mrs. *Maxwell* into the River, when in labour, the child being half born when the Mother was drowned.

In one place they burnt two *Protestant Bibles*, and then said, *It was Hell fire they burnt.* Other Bibles they took, cut in pieces, and then burnt them; saying, *They would do the like to all Puritane Bibles.* They took the Bible of a Minister, called Mr. *Edward Slack*, and opening it, they laid it in a puddle of Water, and then stamped upon it, saying, *A plague on it, this Bible hath bred all the quarrel.*

At *Glasgow*, a Priest, with some others, drew about forty *English* and *Scottish Protestants* to be reconciled to the Church of *Rome*, and then told them, *They were in a good faith, and for fear they should fall from it and turn Hereticks, he with his companions presently cut all their throats.*

In the County of *Tipperary*, near the *Silver Works*, some of these barbarous *Papists* met with eleven *Englishmen*, ten women, and some children; whom they first stript, and then with Stones, Pole-axes, Skeins, Swords, &c. they most barbarously massacred them all.

In the County of *Mayo* about sixty *Protestants*, whereof fifteen were Ministers, were upon Covenant to be safely conveyed to *Galway* by one *Edmond Burk*, and his Souldiers; but by the way, this *Burk* and his company began to massacre these poor *Protestants*; some they shot to death; some they stab'd with their Skeins; some they thrust through with their Pikes, some they drowned; the Women they stript naked, who lying upon their husbands to save them, were run through with Pikes; so that very few of them escaped with life.

In the Town of *Sligo*, forty *Protestants* were stript and locked up in a Cellar; and about midnight a Butcher provided for the purpose, was sent in amongst them; who with his *Axe* butchered them all.



In *Tiranny* thirty or forty *English*, who had yielded to go to *Mafs*, were put to their choice, *Whether they would die by the Sword or be drowned?* They chose the latter, and so being driven to the Sea-side, these barbarous Villains, with their naked swords forced them into the Sea; the *Mothers* with their *Children* in their Arms, wading to the Chin, were overcome by the waves; where they all perished.

The Son of Mr. *Mourmery* a Minister, aged about fifteen years, met with his *School-master*, who drew his *Skein* at him; whereupon the Boy said, *Good Master whip me as much as you will, but do not kill me.* Yet this merciless Tiger barbarously murdered him without all pity.

In the Town of *Sligo* all the *Protestants* were first robbed of their Estates, then cast into *Goal*, and about midnight were all stript naked, and were there most cruelly and barbarously murdered with *Swords*, *Axes*, *Skeins*, &c. some of them being *Women* great with-child, their *Infants* thrust out their Arms and Legs at their Wounds; after which execrable murders, these *Hell-hounds* laid the dead naked bodies of the Men upon the naked bodies of the *Women*, in a most immodest posture; where they left them till the next day to be looked upon by the *Irish*, who beheld it with great delight. Also *Isabel Beard*, great with-child, hearing the lamentable cries of those that were murdering, ran out into the streets; where she was murdered, and the next day was found with the Childs feet coming out of the Wounds in her sides: many others were murdered in the houses and streets.

About *Dungannon* were three hundred and sixteen *Protestants* in the like barbarous manner murdered: About *Charlemont* above four hundred: About *Tyrone* two hundred and six.

One *Mac Crew* murdered thirty one in one morning.

Two young Villains murdered 140 poor *Women* and *Children*, that could make no resistance. An *Irish* *Woman* with her own hands murdered forty five.

At *Portadown Bridge* were drowned above three hundred. At *Lamh* were drowned above two hundred. In another place were drowned three hundred in one day. In the parish of *Killmen*, there were murdered one thousand and two hundred *Protestants*.

Many young children they cut in quarters; eighteen *Scottish* *Infants* they hanged upon a *Clothiers* *Tenter-hooks*; one fat man they murdered and made *Candles* of his grease; another *Scottish* man they ript up his belly, took one end of his small guts, tied it to a Tree, and forced him round about it, till they had drawn them all out of his body, saying, *That they would try whether a dogs or a Scottish mans Guts were the longer.*

By the command of Sir *Philem O Neale*, Master *James Maxwell* was drawn out of his bed, being sick of a *Feaver*, and murdered, his *Wife* being in child birth, the child being half born, they stript naked, drove her about a flight shot, and drowned her in the black water, the like or worse they did to another *English* *Woman* in the same Town. One Mr. *Watson* they roasted alive. A *Scottish* *Woman* great with-child, they ript up her Belly, cut the Child out of her Womb, and so left it crawling on her Body.

Mr. *Sturkey*, Schoolmaster at *Armagh*, being above one hundred years old, they stript him naked, then took his two Daughters, being Virgins, whom they also stript naked, and then forced them to lead their Aged Father to a *Turf-pit*, where they drowned them all three.

To one *Henry Cowel*, a gallant Gentleman, they proffered his life, if he would marry one of their *Trulls*, or go to *Mafs*, but he chose death rather than to consent to either.

Many of the *Protestants* they buried alive, follacing themselves, whilst they were digging down old *Ditches* upon them.

They brake the Back-bone of a *Youth*, and left him in the *Fields*, some days after he was found, having eaten the *Grass* round about him; neither then would they kill him outright, but removed him to better *Pasture*, wherein was fulfilled that saying, *The tender mercies of the wicked are cruelty.*

In the County of *Antrim*, they murdered Nine hundred fifty four *Protestants* in one morning, and afterwards about Twelve hundred more in that County. Near *Lisnegarry*, they forced Twenty four *Protestants* into a House and burnt them all.

*Sir Philem O Neale boasted, That he had slain above Six hundred at Garvah, and that he had left neither Man, Woman, nor Child alive in the Barony of Munterlong. In other places he murdered above two thousand Persons in their Houses; so that many Houses were filled with dead bodies.*

Above twelve thousand were slain in the High-ways, as they fled towards Down. Many died of Famine, many died for want of Cloths, being stript naked in a cold season; some thousands were drowned; so that in the Province of *Ulster*, there were about one hundred and fifty thousand murdered by sundry kinds of torments and deaths.

*Anne Kenna testified, That fifteen Protestants being imprisoned, and their Feet in the Stocks, a Popish Boy, being not above fourteen years old, flew them all in one Night with his Skin.*

An English Woman, who was newly delivered of two Children, some of these Villains violently compelled her, in her great pain and sickness, to rise out of her Bed, and took one of the Infants that was living, and dashed his Brains against the Stones, and then threw him into the River of *Barrow*: The like they did by many other Infants; many others they hanged up without all pity.

The Lord *Mom Garret*, caused divers English Souldiers that he had taken about *Kilkenny*, to be hanged, hardly suffering them to pray before their death.

One *Fitz Patrick*, an Irish Papist, emiced a rich Merchant, that was a Protestant, to bring all his Goods to his House, promising safely to keep them, and to re-deliver them to him, but when he had gotten them into his possession, he took the Merchant and his Wife and hanged them both. The like he did by divers others.

Some English Mens Heads they cut off, and carried them to *Kilkenny*, and on the Market-day, set them on the Cross, where many, especially the Women, stab'd, cut, and slashed them.

A poor Protestant Woman, with her two Children, going to *Kilkenny*, these bloody Miscreants baited them with Dogs, stabbed them with Skins, and pulled out the Guts of one of the Children, whereby they died; and not far off they took divers Men, Women, and Children, and hanged them up; one of the Women being great with-child, they ripped up her Belly as she hanged, so that the Child fell out in the Cawl alive. Some after they were hanged, they drew up and down till their Bowels were torn out.

How many thousands of Protestants were there thus inhumanely butchered, by sundry kinds of death, we cannot ascertain.

In the Province of *Ulster*, we find vast numbers murdered, as before; what the number of the slain was in the three Provinces, I had not upon Record, but certainly it was very great, for you have these passages in a general Remonstrance of the distressed Protestants in the Province of *Munster*. *'It may' (say they) compare our woe to the saddest parallel of any story: Our Churches are profaned by Sacrifices to Idols; Our Habitations are become ruinous heaps: No Quality, Age, or Sex, privileged from Massacres and lingering Deaths, by being robbed, stript naked, and so exposed to cold and famine. The smothered Infants of murdered Parents strewed on our streets, and for want of food perish before our faces, &c. And all this cruelty that is exercised upon us, we know not for what cause, offence, or seeming provocation it is inflicted upon us (sin excepted) saving that we were Protestants, &c. We can make it manifest, that the depopulations in this Province of Munster, do well near equal those of the whole Kingdom, &c.'*

And thus in part you have heard of the merciless cruelties which the bloody Irish Papists exercised toward the Protestants. Let us now consider, at least some of Gods Judgments upon the Irish, whereby he hath not left the innocent Blood of his Servants to be altogether unrevenged.

These bloody Hell-hounds, themselves confessed, *That the Ghost of divers of the Protestants which they had drowned at Portendown Bridge, were daily seen to walk upon the Rivers; sometimes singing of Psalms; sometimes brandishing naked Swords; sometimes breaking up in a most hideous and fearful manner.* So that many of the Popish Irish, which dwelt near the Rivers, being affrighted therewith, were forced to remove their Habitations farther off into the Country.

*Katherine Cook testified upon Oath, That when the Irish had barbarously drowned One hundred and eighty Protestants, Men, Women and Children, at Portendown Bridge, about nine days after, she saw the apparition of a Man bolt-upright in the River, standing breast-high, with his hands lifted up to Heaven; and continued in that posture from December to the end of Lent, at which time some of the English Army passing that way, saw it also; after which it vanished away.*

*Elizabeth Price, testified upon Oath, That she and other Women, whose Husbands Children were drowned in that place, bearing of those Apparitions, went thither one evening, at which time they saw one like a Woman rise out of the River breast-high, her Hair hanging down, which with her Skin, was as white as Snow, often crying out, Revenge, Revenge, Revenge, which so affrighted them that they went away.*

*Divers Protestants were thrown into the River of Belterbert, and when any of them offered to swim to the Land, they were knocked on the Head with Poles, after which their Bodies were not seen of six weeks, but after the end hereof, the murderers coming again that way, the Bodies came floating up to the very Bridge where they were.*

*Sir Con Mac Gennis, with his Company, slew Mr. Turge, Minister of the Newry, with divers other Protestants, after which the said Mac Gennis was so affrighted with the Apparition of the said Mr. Turge, his being continually in his presence, that he commanded his Souldiers not to slay any more of them but such as should be slain in Battel.*

*A young Woman being stript almost naked, there came a Rogue to her, bidding her, Give him her mency, or he would run her through with his Sword. Her Answer was, You cannot kill me except God give you leave; whereupon he ran three times at her naked Body with his drawn Sword, and yet never pierced her Skin; whereat he being confounded went his way and left her. This was attested by divers Women that were present and saw it.*

*As for the Protestant Ministers whom they surprized, their manner was first to strip them, and after bind them to a Tree or Post, where they pleased, and then to ravish their Wives and Daughters before their faces (in sight of all their merciless rabble) with the basest Villains they could pick out; after they hanged up their Husbands and Parents before their faces, and then cut them down before they were half dead, then quartered them, after dismembered them, and stopped their mouths therewith.*

*They basely abused one Mr. Trafford a Minister in the North of Ireland, who being assaulted by these bloody Wolves of Romes-brood, that know not God, nor any bowels of Mercy. This distressed Minister desired but so much time as to call upon God before he went out of the world; but these merciless wretches would admit no time, but instantly fell upon him, hackt and hewed him to pieces.*

*Sir Patrick Dunstan's Wife ravished before him, slew his Servants, spurned his Children till they died, bound him with Match to a board that his eyes burst out, cut off his Ears and Nose, teared off both his Cheeks, after cut off his Arms and Legs, cut out his Tongue, and after run a red hot Iron into him.*

*These Particulars, with many more, were Attested before the Commissioners appointed for that purpose.*

See more of such Cruelties in *Clark's Martirology.*